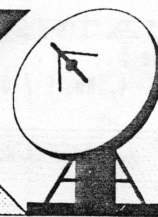


MATWATCH

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VOL. 4, NO. 1

JANUARY 7-13

Negotiations Continue

ON-OFF SWITCH KEEPS FLIPPING ON KONGI/USWA/ANDREWS DEAL

ATLANTA---Negotiations continue between Kongi Sports and Entertainment and the Jerry Jarrett-Max Andrews joint partnership for purchase of the United States Wrestling Association, despite a contract breakdown which threatened the deal during New Year's week. As of Sunday afternoon, Kongi co-owner Joe Pedicino and television syndicator Andrews had resumed talks they hope will culminate in a final deal.

Florida Arrest

HEENAN COLLAPSES, IS CHARGED

TAMPA---Veteran manager/commentator Bobby (The Brain) Heenan faces charges of possession of controlled substances after collapsing on a plane last week.

According to reports from THE TAMPA TRIBUNE and THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES, Heenan had passed out at an area airport and was examined by paramedics for a possible cardiac arrest.

Heenan's bag was searched and authorities reportedly found a number of grams of marijuana, according to the TRIBUNE.

Medical officials determined Heenan's collapse was brought on by a reaction to foreign substances and not heart-related.

The PRIME TIME WRESTLING and WWF WRESTLING CHALLENGE co-host was charged with possession of controlled substances and freed on \$3,000 bond.

Insiders say Titan Sports officials were trying to keep the story out of the New York media but WRESTLING OBSERVER publisher Dave Meltzer was expected to detail the Heenan arrest Tuesday in his column in THE NATIONAL sports daily.

Kongi officials in November had signed an agreement in principle to buy the USWA from Jarrett Promotions and its 118-station syndicated television network from Andrews Syndication. A tentative deal had been made Dec. 26 but talks broke off there days later after attorneys for Kongi were not satisfied with several elements of the contract.

But Andrews and Pedicino had two phone conversations late in the week and over the weekend and the talks were returning to an optimistic stage.

In a Saturday night interview with MATWATCH, Pedicino said: "Like many deals involving businesses, things often get into an on-again, off-again stage, the closer you get to closing. Our lawyers are still trying to work out the details to make this (Pedicino's Global Wrestling Federation) a viable company. Despite what's been said or written by a number of people, just because we didn't close on a first deadline on the 26th doesn't mean the deal is dead or off. This kind of thing happens all the time when people close on a house."

Pedicino will pitch Global to programmers at the National Association of Television Program Executives in New Orleans Jan. 14-17. GWF and Tor Berg's LPWA will share a 30'x30' booth and several GWF wrestlers (see MATWATCHING) will be present.

"Either the USWA deal will be finalized or we will start our own network," said Pedicino. "We're now optimistic of reaching agreement with the USWA but if not, we'll spend the money to establish our own station lineup."

Sunday morning on THE LARRY KATZ SHOW on WCBM radio in Baltimore, Pedicino addressed the immediate and long-term future of Global. "People have told us they hope we're successful because they believe something fresh is needed in wrestling and they hope it's us," Pedicino told Katz. "I appreciate that. But what there isn't a lot of in the wrestling business is patience. There appears to be a number of so-called experts who feel we're already a failure because we haven't met an arbitrary deadline to get started. I said from the start, we would either do it right or we weren't going to do it at all."

(Continued on Page 2)

Missing in Memphis

HAS EDDIE CALLED IT QUITS???

MEMPHIS---USWA/ Memphis booker Eddie Gilbert appeared in two key Monday night matches at the Mid-South Coliseum but is considering a break from the group.

Gilbert did not appear for a booking at the coliseum Jan. 2 and could not be reached by anyone in the Jerry Jarrett-owned group until Jerry Lawler contacted him Friday.

MATWATCH spoke to Gilbert by telephone Sunday night at his Memphis apartment. "My body's tired and my mind is tired," said Gilbert. He did not go into specifics but told MATWATCH his creative decisions have been regularly second-guessed by various political factions within the USWA.

Insiders say Gilbert was challenged personally by Jarrett for his original decision to bring back Steve Keirn and Stan Lane as The Fabulous Ones with Jim Cornette for a short-term program with Lawler against Eddie's Memphis Mafia.

Gilbert appeared in a Southern title match Monday night and an eight-man tag bout as part of the Fabs/Lawler/Mafia

(Continued on Page 2)

**THIS WEEK'S
HEADLINES**

**VINCE NOT FOXY;
PEACOCK RULES**

NEW YORK---A scheduled World Wrestling Federation special on the Fox network in February has reportedly been dropped, according to published reports.

NBC has agreed to a fourth consecutive prime-time special for Titan Sports Feb. 1. WWF owner Vince McMahon has exercised an option to be released from the Fox deal.

Fox had offered the WWF a two-hour slot to launch its buildup for WRESTLEMANIA VII when NBC had originally dropped the prime time hour. Titan opted to stay with NBC because of its stronger affiliate lineup.

**HONKY TO LEAVE
WWF JANUARY 28**

GREENWICH CT---Barring a last-minute change, the Honky Tonk Man (Wayne Farris) will leave the World Wrestling Federation Jan. 28.

A six-week trial of Farris with Roddy Piper and Vince McMahon at the color mike of WWF SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING has not proved critically successful.

Titan Sports had hoped Farris would take over the co-host role after Roddy Piper returns to the ring full-time.

**MATWATCH
1990 ANNUAL**

Still plenty of time to order the MATWATCH 1990 ANNUAL: WHAT WENT WRONG. We hope to be at the printers Jan. 15 with mailing Jan. 25.

The annual includes our just completed balloting for the MATWATCH TV AWARDS, the naming of the MATWATCH PERSON OF THE YEAR, our annual MATWATCHer of the YEAR, the third edition of the WRESTLING BROADCASTING SYSTEM TV Log and a special story by wrestling author Dr. Gerald Morton.

PRICE: \$12 (U.S./Canada), \$20 (Overseas).
CHECK, CASH or MONEY ORDER to: MATWATCH,
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KONGI/USWA TALKS CONTINUE
(Continued from Page 1)

As for a recent published contention doubting the existence of his \$25 million line of credit from a Northeastern-based financial trust, Pedicino said: "All that's being worked out is how the funds will be transferred and we expect that will be finalized in a matter of days."

Katz asked Pedicino about the prospect of Global shows appearing on Baltimore TV and in live arenas in the Delmarva area. "We plan to be on TV in Baltimore and we'll be doing shows there, too, but not 10 or 12 times a year. Probably twice and no more than three times a year. But when we come, we hope to make it special. We look on Global as a television wrestling company that as an offshoot will bring quality weekend wrestling shows to arenas. But we're also not trying to build this to be successful in 1991. That's where a lot of people miss the point. We're not making and never have made dynamic promises that we're going to be bigger than the NWA or WWF and challenging to be number one in a year. We ARE going to try to build a company with a long-term future into 1993, 1994 and 1995, not just for today. Again, that's where patience is going to have to come in. We'll make our mistakes and some things we try probably won't work but when we do, it will be in the name of trying to do something different that will entertain people.

Andrews and Pedicino are expected to resume discussions on a revised deal this week.

EDDIE TO QUIT IN MEMPHIS???
(Continued from Page 1)

series. Saturday on WMC-TV, on which Gilbert did not appear, his brother Doug said Eddie was in "protective custody" from wrestlers seeking a "\$50,000 bounty" placed on Eddie by Jerry Lawler in the current Memphis storyline.

Gilbert was named Memphis booker in September after rejoining the Jarrett group in June. But insiders report the situation has, at best, been difficult for the Lexington TN native. His October USWA SUPERCARD drew the biggest Mid-South Coliseum gate of the year and his recent importing of Jim Cornette with a revival of the Fabulous Ones has created a resurgence of fan interest.

But sources close to the promotion say Gilbert has encountered problems with Jarrett over his son Jeff not being included in the Fabs angle and has also run into Jarrett Promotions frugality in attempting to bring in outside talent. Jarrett recently rejected a Gilbert plan to bring in Steve Williams for a two-week program.

Officials of the company were to meet with Jarrett Monday concerning Gilbert. Eddie told MATWATCH: "I knew a lot of these things when I came here because I've been from these parts. In a lot of ways, this has been my dream job. But either I'm going to be able to book this thing the way I think will turn a buck or I've got to get away from it. If we can't get things sorted out, I guess Monday night will be my last appearance."

Third Time Around

ANOTHER WCW-GLOW FEUD IS ON

HOLLYWOOD---Ray Combs may get the idea he can't get away from pro wrestlers.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING will get its third go-around on the Mark Goodson syndicated edition of FAMILY FEUD during the February rating sweeps. This rematch against five former GLOW personalities will include four heels and an announcer.

Sid Vicious, Dutch Mantel, Master Blaster Steel, Kevin Sullivan (who begins the new SULLIVAN'S SALOON segment on WCW syndication this weekend) and WORLD WIDE WRESTLING host Tony Schiavone will appear on the week-long matchups against Jackie Stallone's GLOW team.

The WCW team will again for the Starlight Foundation. The Turner Broadcasting wrestlers first appeared on the CBS daytime version of FEUD in May 1990, then launched the third syndicated season of FEUD in September. FEUD ratings increased as many as two points in some metered markets during the September matchup.

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TV TEMPO

Dec. 31-Jan. 6

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]:

Randy Savage d. Jimmy Snuka when Sherri Martel creams Snuka w. purse during ref bump; Nasty Boys d. Jim Evans/Sonny Blaze; (UPDATE) Dusty & Dustin vs. Ted DiBiase/Virgil saga; (ROYAL RUMBLE REPORT) Slaughter vs. Ultimate Warrior; (GUEST SEGS) Rosatti sisters visit Bobby Heenan for New Year's Eve; Barbarian d. Jim Powers; Shawn Michaels double DQ vs. DiBiase when Marty Jannetty/Virgil get into it; Tugboat d. Haku; Bushwackers d. Rhythm & Blues by countout; Koko B. Ware d. Bob Bradley; Rick Martel d. Jannetty. RESTHOLD-PLUS...good but padded for 2 1/2 hrs.

(ALL JAPAN) - [12/9]: {PRO WRESTLING NEWS} Shohei Baba's injury; Dynamite Kid/Johnny Smith d. Nitron/Blade Butch Masters; Abdullah the Butcher/Giant Kimala II d. Rusher Kimura/Mighty Inoue; (OTHERS) Jumbo Tsuruta/Akira Taue d. Johnny Ace/Kenta Kobashi; Steve Williams/Terry Gordy d. Mitsuhara Misawa/Toshiaki Kawada; (6-MAN) Andre the Giant/Funk Brothers d. Stan Hansen/Danny Spivey/Joel Deaton. POWERSLAM-PLUS. [12/16]: {P.W. NEWS} Review of tag tourney, update on Baba's injury; (OTHERS) Misawa/Kawada d. Taue/Tsuruta; Williams/Gordy d. Hansen/Spivey. POWERSLAM.

(NEW JAPAN) - [12/15]: Keiji Mutoh d. Bam Bam Bigelow; (IWGP WORLD TAG TITLE) Hiroshi Hase/Kensuke Sasaki d. Super Strong Machine/Tatsutoshi Goto to keep belts; (6-MAN) Kuniaki Kobayashi/Osamu Kido/Riki Choshu d. Tatsumi Fujinami/Shiro Koshinaka/Takayuki Iizuka. DRAW-PLUS.

[12/22]: (CLIPS) Axe Demolition (Bill Eadie) d. Masa Saito; Scott Norton d. Saito; (OTHERS) Norton d. Goto; (IWGP WORLD TAG TITLE) Hase/Sasaki d. Koshinaka/Iizuka to retain belts; Choshu/Kido d. Fujinami/Kengo Kimura. RESTHOLD. Riki Choshu/Animal Hamaguchi d. Super Strong Machine/Tatsutoshi Goto; Tatsumi Fujinami d. Ryuma Go. DRAW-PLUS.

(ASWA) - (ASWA TITLE) A.J. Fritzoid d. Prince Charming to retain belt when ref Dave McCallister quick counts; (ASWA USA TITLE) Axel Rotton d. Rip Sawyer to win tourney finals; (ANGLE) Atom Smash, Steve Valentino run in & brawl. Cream Team's Dave Casanova gets involved & juices. BOMB-PLUS.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - [Yearender/Top 11 of 1990] Angel Azteca-Emilio Charles Jr.; Jerry Estrada-El Satanico; Azteca-El Dandy; Atlantis-Dandy; Ringo Mendoza-El Perro Aguayo; Atlantis-Charles Jr.; Cien Caras-El Rayo de Jalisco Jr.; Atlantis-Kung Fu; Pirata Morgan-El Faraon; Dandy-Satanico; (MASK VS MASK VS MASK) Fuerza Guerrera d. Huracan Ramirez; Guerrera d. Octagon; Octagon d. Ramirez 2-3 falls so Ramirez loses mask; (6-MAN) Octagon/El Misterioso/Huracan Sevilla d. Guerrera/Estrada/Pierroth Jr. 2-3. RESTHOLD.

(WCW/SYN) - [WORLD WIDE]: Master Blasters d. Todd Brewer/Pablo Crenshaw; (WCW THIS WEEK) Michael Wallstreet/Alexandra York; Dutch Mantel d. Dave Justice; (WRAPUP) Gordon Solie w. Sting & Black Scorpion-Sting STARRCADE clips; Tom Zenk d. Tim Hughes; Curtis Hughes d. Jamie McKinnon; (STARRCADE CLIPS) End of DOOM-Anderson/Windham street brawl; (CLIP) Freebirds/Bobby Eaton tripleteam Ricky Morton; Morton d. Eaton by DQ when Freebirds run in but Michael & Jimmy cleared out and it appears Ricky is going to help Bobby. But Eaton decks Morton; Wallstreet d. Scott Sandlin; (FINALE) Flair, with new short haircut, declares war on Sting. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[HCW PRO]: Terry Taylor d. Mantel; Sid Vicious d. Darnell Yates; (ANGLE) Freebirds interview Buddy Landell, who insults Armstrongs. Tracy Smothers & Brad come out to challenge.

They ram 'Birds' heads together. Landell acts as if he's joining Tracy & Brad in daring 'Birds to return but Steve/Brad chase Buddy; (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. w. Sting-Scorpion STARRCADE clips; State Patrol d. Italian Stallion/Brett Sawyer; Brian Pillman d. Crusher Knopf; (CONTENDERS' MATCH) Landell d. Rip Rogers; Freebirds d. Armstrong/Smothers. DRAW-PLUS....best WCW PRO in a while.

(PRO WRESTLING '90) - Yearend review of January-June matches. RESTHOLD.

(USWA/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]: Chris Champion d. Sheik Hussein; [USWA TAG TITLE] Doug Gilbert/Tony Anthony d. Brickhouse Brown/Cody Michaels; Jeff Jarrett d. Joey Maggs; [SOUTHERN TITLE] Eddie Gilbert d. Danny Davis when Sam Lowe tosses loaded boot to Eddie, who decks Davis; (\$10,000 POLE BATTLE ROYAL) Jarrett wins when Eddie decks Doug with knucks, then Jeff picks up knucks & decks Eddie. POWERSLAM.

[BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: Davis d. Jamie Dundee; Spike Huber d. The Shadow; Marino/Angel d. Ninja/Lee; Don Bass d. Johnson; (INTVW) Fabulous Ones/Cornette; Jeff Jarrett d. Doug Gilbert by DQ. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(LPWA) - [LPWA TITLE] Susan Sexton d. The Beast 2-3 falls; Bad, Black & Beautiful d. Ilona Starr/Terry Power; Misty Blue Simmes/Heidi Lee Morgan d. Queen & the Court by DQ when BB&B and Queen/Court jump Misty Blue/Heidi & paint yellow. DRAW.

(ICW CLASSICS) - Tony Atlas d. Jumping Joe Savoldi; (BATTLE ROYAL); Bob Backlund d. Johnny Rodriguez; Ivan Putski d. Bob Orton Jr.; Don Muraco d. Kevin Sullivan; Shepherders d. Al Perez/ Savoldi; Sgt. Slaughter d. Boris Zhukov; (ICW TITLE/ 11th rerun) Vic Steamboat d. Atlas to win belt; Kerry Von Erich d. Missing Link; Ric Flair d. Austin Idol; Dory Funk Jr. d. Carlos McGhee. NO RATING OFFERED.

(WWF/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]: Hart Foundation d. Bob Bradley/Bob Bennett; Undertaker d. Rick Hunter; Jake Roberts d. Pete Sanchez; Nasty Boys d. Mike Williams/Jonathan Holliday; Sgt. Slaughter d. Hammer; ROYAL RUMBLE Report; Curt Hennig d. Brazil. BOMB-PLUS.

[SUPERSTARS]: Kerry Von Erich d. Tom Stone; Warlord d. Donny Steel; (UPDATE) Mean Gene w. Savage/Warrior; Jim Duggan d. J.T. Smith; (REPLAY) Slaughter reveals boot given him "by Saddam Hussein;" Slaughter d. Pat Armstrong; (BRO. LUV) Hulk Hogan w. clips of last year's Hogan-Warrior standoff at ROYAL RUMBLE III; (ROYAL RUMBLE REPORT) Ted DiBiase makes Virgil clean cow manure from Ted's boots. Virg doesn't look happy; Orient Express d. Mulkey Brothers. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(USWA/WMC) - (SEGMENT) Doug Gilbert says missing Eddie is in "protective custody from \$50,000 bounty;" (VIDEO) Fabulous Ones; [6-MAN]: T.D. Steel/Ben Jordan/Preezer Thompson d. Anthony/Doug/Sam Lowe when Jordan thrown over top. Heels beat faces w. USWA tag belts & chair; (From MID-SOUTH) Fabulous Ones/Jerry Lawler d. Anthony/Gilberts; (ANGLE) Doug/Tony attack Lawler during interview & Lowe whips Jerry w. belt; Davis/Michaels double countout vs. Magliano/Black Magic

SCALE: PINEAPPLE -
Must See. PILGRIVER -
Excellent. POWERSLAM -
Good. DRAW - Average.
RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB -
Poor. PLUS - Midscale
rating.

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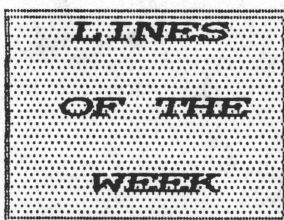
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when Danny chases Joey w. belt Downtown Bruno had tossed in; Jerry Lynn d. Sgt. O'Reilly; (ANGLE) Davis chases Joey again w. belt during interview; (From MID-SOUTH) Lawler d. Willie B. Hert by DQ; New Kids d. Scorpions; Lawler d. Terrence Garvin by DQ when Bruno runs in. Anthony/Doug/Lowe attack before New Kids/Lynn save. POWERSLAM.

(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Zenk/Pillman d. Ed Brock/Joe Ceza-na; Freebirds d. Tommy Angel/Rob Morgan; Rick Steiner d. Chuck Coats; Taylor d. Brian Carr; (WNN) Gordon Solie w. Sting-Scorpion STARRCADE & Flair interview; Wallstreet d. Rick Hardrock; Vicious d. Dave Perry; Morton d. Eaton by DQ when Freebirds run in before Zenk saves. RESTHOLD-PLUS. [WCW]: Vicious d. Crenshaw; Pillman d. Rogers; (REPLAY/WCW TV TITLE) Zenk d. Arn Anderson to win belt; Eaton d. Reno Riggins; Renegade Warriors d. Brock/Coats; Minotaur (Steve DiSalvo) d. Mt. Man Bailey; Lex Luger d. Mike Sample; Wallstreet d. Gregg Sawyer; (WCW TV TITLE) Zenk d. Dr. X; (ANGLE) Paul E. blows up at Missy during her interview w. Wallstreet; Freebirds d. McKinnon/Keith Hart; (WCW CLASSICS) Sting-Flair from CLASH I; Anderson d. Taylor w. legs on ropes; (FINALE) Ross interviews Lawrence Taylor; Tim Horner d. George South; (ANGLE) Missy slaps Paul E. after he insults her. DRAW-PLUS.

[MAIN EVENT]: (REPLAY) Zenk d. Arn for TV title; Wallstreet d. Dave Johnson; (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. blasts Lawrence Taylor for interview; Landell d. Rich w. trunks; Horner/Allen Iron Eagle d. Doug Vines/South; Luger d. Mike Hart; Freebirds d. Norman/Juicer; (REPLAY) Missy slaps Paul E. DRAW.

(SOUTH ATLANTIC) - Curtis Thompson double countout vs. Man-eater; (6-MAN) Vince Torelli/Chris Chavis/Ranger Ross d. White Knight/Mike Rerxx/Dan Grundy. BOMB-PLUS.



so much, your stomach needs a manicure." 3. Paul E. Dangerously, PH: "Missy Hyatt's not on the program this morning. I hear she's comparing plastic surgery bills with Jessica Hahn." 4. Jim Cornette, USWA, "Me and Joe Pedicino are having a contest to see who can scoot back the quickest. And that's not easy." 5. Tony Schiavone, WWW, on Dutch Mantel: "247 (pounds)? Shave off all that hair and it would be 210." 6. Woolery, LOVE CONN.: "I won't get in Hulk Hogan's way." 7. Mantel, WWW, on Ricky Morton trying to aid Bobby Eaton: "This is almost like Ford Motor Company coming to help General Motors." 8. Tracy Smothers, WCW PRO, to Freebirds: "If it weren't for lies, you guys wouldn't have a vocabulary." 9. Vince McMahon Jr., WWF-SU: "Join me in the Cigar State are two guys with big butts." 10. Mantel, WWW: "They don't call me a stop sign for nothing. If Z-Man runs like a torpedo, I stop him."

11. Brian Voss, PBA bowler, THE NATIONAL: "We've got to find a way to make ourselves (bowlers) interesting. The

wrestlers, they've all got a nickname. They've all got something that's very unique about them. Maybe that's something we can do." 12. Roddy Piper, WWF-SU, on Virgil cleaning cow manure: "I've slept on park benches. I been in the back of trains. But Virgil, you don't have to do this." 13. Brian Pillman, WWW: "Air Pillman doesn't always fly the friendly skies." 14. Lance Russell, WCW PRO, on Michael Hayes: "By the way, he's hung over from New Year's Eve. He said so." 15. Cornette, USWA, on Sheik Fabiano: "He's back shoveling camel hair in a stall." 16. Terry Taylor, WCW PRO: "The world's looking so bright for Terry Taylor, I need shades." 17. Downtown Bruno, WMC, on New Kids: "They're putting the Clearasil factory out of business." 18. Hayes, WCW PRO, on Taylor: "He's a nerd and a dork but he is a good wrestler." 19. Cornette, WMC, on Sam Lowe: "I'll put knots on your head faster than you can rub 'em." 20. Bruno, WMC: "Danny Davis always talks about fighting fire with fire but anybody with any sense knows you fight fire with water." 21. Missy Hyatt, WME, on Rich/Landell: "I wonder if these 2 guys buy stock in Clairrol."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Tony Schiavone, WWW: "What are we doing...trying to see how many cliches Dutch can come up with in an hour?" 2. Paul E., PH, to Jim Ross, on Ga. Tech coach Bobby Ross: "Are you related to him?" 3. Lawrence Taylor, WCW: "Paul E., what kind of name is that for a man?" 4. Hyatt, WME, to Ross: "How much did Rhubarb (Jones) pay you for that plug?"

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Paul E., WCW, to Missy: "At the CLASH, I want you to dress like a lady, not like what we all know you are." 2. Sting, WWW, on Black Scorpion: "The second I locked up with him, I knew it was Ric Flair." 3. McMahon, WWF-SU, to Honky on BODYBUILDING LIFESTYLES: "That's one magazine I don't think you'll ever be posing for." 3. Arn Anderson, WWW: "I'd rather be dead than be an also-ran." 4. Mantel, WWW: "If ever there was a hall of fame for wrestlers, Bobby Eaton would be one of the first inductees."

BEST PICTURES - 1. WCW, Missy slapping Paul E. 2. WWW, Flair's '90s-look hairstyle. 3. WCW, Air Pillman from top of exit ramp onto Rip Rogers. 4. USWA, Eddie Gilbert's headbob when decked by Jarrett's knuckles. 5. WCW PRO, Buddy Landell angle. 6. USWA, Sam Lowe hiding boot before tossing to Eddie. 7. WWW, Closeup of Motor City Madman arguing w. cameraman. 8. PTW, Rosatti sisters surrounding Heenan.

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. THE HILLBILLIES OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING (Buddy Landell on Armstrongs). 2. THE CUB SCOUTS (Downtown Bruno on The New Kids).

FUNNIEST ANGLE - WCW PRO, Buddy Landell trying to side with Tracy Smothers/Brad Armstrong after Freebirds chased. Funniest Landell spot since his split with Ron Bass in 1984.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Mantel, WWW: "If you can't pay the price, don't roll the dice. If you can't do the time, don't do the crime." 2. Roddy Piper, WWF-SU: "...can't see the forest for the trees." 3. Honky Tonk Man, WWF-SU: "...kids are supposed to be seen and not heard." 4. Honky, WWF-SU: "...if you can't take the heat, get out of the kitchen."

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - WMC, for picture from hand-held cam which had blue tint.

BLOOPER AWARD - WCW MAIN EVENT, 12/30 edition, for references to the Horsemen defeating DOOM at STARRCADE.

MATWATCHING

DUSTY'S RELEASE: Dusty Rhodes was given his WWF release Dec. 31 and all he owes Vince is the ROYAL

RUMBLE appearance on the 19th. From the looks of current WCW arena finishes, Dusty's already calling the shots.

NOT THIS FAST!: On his last week in the WWF, Dusty sent a message to Jim Ross through an emissary which was none too kind. Friends, likewise, say Ross is hardly enchanted with the return of Rhodes but will do whatever he's asked.

THE TOUCH IS BACK: Any doubt Dusty's already influencing things could be seen in Chicago New Year's week. Things like Sid Vicious beating Lex Luger in a non-title match by holding onto the ropes and several DQ finishes.

WILL HE SHOW?: Despite Eddie Gilbert's apparent walkout, he was still being billed Saturday for Monday night's MID-SOUTH COLISEUM card. Eddie was scheduled to defend the Southern belt against Cody Michaels and was penciled in the 8-man lights out match with Doug, Tony Anthony and Sam Lowe against Jerry Lawler, The Fabulous Ones and Jim Cornette.

ALSO APPEARING: Others slated on the Monday Memphis card: New Kids vs. Jamie Dundee/Jerry Lynn, Danny Davis vs. Joseph Magliano (strap match), Lawler/Bill Dundee vs. Willie B. Hert/Brian Lee (Texas Death) and a USWA tag title match with Doug and Tony against the Fabs.

RECOVERING: Chuck Austin, a South Boston VA native, is still recovering from a broken back suffered at the WWF TV tapings in Tampa Dec. 11. Austin is not supposed to be moved for at least three months and may not walk for at least a year, according to hospital reports. We wish him well.

SELLING GRUDGES: Next week's NATPE TV programmers' convention in New Orleans is being precluded by full-page trade ads for THE GRUDGE MATCH, the new Jesse Ventura/Lyle Alzado syndie series. Genesis Entertainment is expected to sell GRUDGE to stations covering 65% of the U.S. by NATPE.

WITH PEDICINO: Regardless of the status of the Global/USWA deal, Joe Pedicino will be at NATPE pitching GWF to stations as a package with LPWA with Terry Funk, Jim Cornette Bill Eadie as Demolisher Axe and Canadian giant Paul Bunyan among the performers working the booth with Joe.

NETWORKING: WORLD WIDE has been bumped on KTVO in Denver the last month. LPWA has a berth on KUBD, the Spanish station in the Mile High city.

OVER THE HOLIDAYS: About 200 fans showed for the UCW show skedded in Hutchinson KS Dec. 28. But the building was closed. A note stated the tickets would be honored this past Sunday night but that show was bumped, too.

NO MORE LOVE: Chris Love's partner and financier in UCW reportedly dropped out of the effort over the holidays. Chris is working as The Queen for LPWA.

INOKI BELLS: Antonio Inoki was skedded to be married Saturday in Miami.

Believed Suicide

**BULL GANTNER
DIES IN FLORIDA**

ORLANDO----Former Florida heavyweight champion Ed (The Bull) Gantner died last week in an apparent suicide, according to authorities.

Gantner had been Florida champion in the waning days of the old Championship Wrestling from Florida promotion before losing to Mike Rotunda in 1987 when Jim Crockett took over the Tampa-based CWF.

About two months after losing the belt, Gantner, 29 at the time of his death, abruptly disappeared from the group. Insiders say Gantner was suffering from kidney and heart problems brought on by steroid usage. Gantner had reportedly been depressed in his final months as both kidneys failed.

SWEET LOU: Lou Thesz, at 74, was the toast of Tokyo in his recent ring appearance against Masa Chono. Lou put Chono over but is said to have looked tremendous in doing so. He was pictured on the front page of several Japan newspapers.

THE VETS SHINE: Also said to look great on the latest Japan swing was former AWA champ Nick Bockwinkel. Nick was said not to have lost a step despite being idle two years.

RATING HIGH: Shohei Baba's Dec. 26 All-Japan special scored a 10.2 network rating (it's hard to compare that to USA ratings because of differences in audience universes).

THE NEW ICW???: ICW financier Howard Rapp promises new ICW programs will begin Jan. 19 and don't be surprised if Kevin Von Erich is on those shows, since he and Kerry are reportedly casting what financial lots they have with Rapp and Mario Savoldi.

JERSEY NIX TIX?: As of Friday, advance sales for Friday night's WCW Meadowlands show stood at only 2,500, the worst week-before pre-show sales yet. Some insiders say too much push is directed at Lawrence Taylor's appearance, instead of building toward what continues to be rumored as a possible NWA world title change to Ric Flair.

IT'S NOW MRS. PEDICINO: Joe Pedicino and Boni Blackstone were married in a private family ceremony New Year's Eve and welcomed about 100 guests at the Alpharetta Auction Barn on New Year's afternoon. Joe promised to give a shot at Ultra Slim-Fast and Boni vowed never again to use the word "urp."

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO?: Interesting piece on retired wrestler Roger (Nature Boy) Kirby by Ron Mott in the KANSAS CITY STAR. Kirby, 50, is now a laborer in the carpenter's shop at the paper.

PROFILING STING: Good friend Sandra Okamoto of the COLUMBUS (Ga.) LEDGER-ENQUIRER will have a feature profile of Sting in this Friday's Arts and Leisure section. Sandra found Sting to be "one of the nicest wrestlers I've ever met," but she was pained to learn it may appear on the day Sting could lose his belt.

THE ULTIMATE PINSPOTTER?: In the Dec. 27 issue of THE NATIONAL, bowler Brian Voss says bowling could be better marketed if the bowlers had nicknames like wrestlers. I wonder if Brian knows CNWA had The Bowlers.

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WCW HITS BIG YULE NUMBERS

Holiday week ratings are still lagging behind because of computer delays but WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING posted its top rating since last march for its Dec. 22 outing to lead the Christmas week Nielsen cable ratings.

The WCW 3.4 rating was the highest since the show's February 3.7 average. The TBS episode dominated the week ending on Christmas Eve but at least one of the WWF ratings was skewed downward because of the holiday.

The Dec. 24 edition of PRIME TIME WRESTLING only scored a 1.5 rating, probably its lowest ever, but Christmas Eve is historically the lowest-rated night in television for the entire year, so the number is still considered respectable.

WCW MAIN EVENT tallied a 2.5 rating, maintaining its average of the last six weeks on Dec. 23. POWER HOUR's ratings still haven't moved substantially, staying at 1.6 for the pre-Christmas edition.

ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING came in with a 2.3 on the 23rd.

CABLE

Week Ending Dec. 24	Rating	Share	Total Homes
WCW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 12/22)	3.4	6.5	1.90 million
WCW MAIN EVENT (TBS 12/23)	2.5	4.7	1.40 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 12/23)	2.3	6.6	1.25 million
WCW POWER HOUR (TBS 12/22)	1.6	6.5	867,000
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 12/24)	1.5	2.7	813,000

Because of the New Year's Day holiday, A.C. Nielsen figures are a bit delayed on USA Cable but TBS' WCW added another 3.0 rating for its Dec. 29 edition to likely lead the week, pending the outcome of USA's 2 1/2-hour edition of WWF PRIME TIME New Year's Eve.

The yearender WCW special, which featured Tom Zenk's WCW TV title victory over Arn Anderson as a finale, registered a 5.7% share.

Missy Hyatt's negligee did not send MAIN EVENT ratings upward (though word-of-mouth could lead to a strong number among males for this past Sunday). WME duplicated its 2.5

RATINGS RAP

average for November-December with a 4.6 share on the 30th. POWER HOUR posted a 6% increase on the 29th with a 1.7 and 6.6 share. The complete averages for the week ending Dec. 31, along with USA ratings, will be published in next week's RATINGS RAP.

TUBE TALK

CLASH XIV is being called PEACH-TREE BATTLE and TBS officials say it will air Jan. 30 from the Atrium of CNN Center in Atlanta. It's the area TBS considered building a small arena for WCW tapings before renting CENTER STAGE....I hope the new SULLIVAN'S SALOON seg on WCW

PRO doesn't turn out to be a pale ripoff of PUNK'S GRILL.... Jim Cornette was in fine form at the color mike on USWA Saturday but four announcers in a one-hour show were too many... UWF is regularly being bumped on SPORTSCHANNEL CHICAGO for hockey and basketball....Dusty Rhodes reportedly has interest in bringing Chris Cruise back to the WCW mike but it would take a substantial offer and convenient work shed to get him back. Chris is doing well as a mortgage loan officer in Portland ME and his office is next door to his home....Buddy Landell's WCW PRO angle Saturday had me on the floor. Reminded me of Buddy's 1984 mocking of Ron Bass's claw after a tag loss....Ron Lemieux's ARENA REPORT annual includes our column on the Top 10 TV matches of the year on weekly series. Order for \$3 from Ron at ARENA REPORT, P.O. BOX 952547, LAKE MARY FL 32795....Anyone who saw last Thursday's LOVE CONNECTION would have been treated to Chuck Woolery telling about his meeting with Hulk Hogan at NBC once. He also told his female fan contestant wrestling "is fake". She said she knew.

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